

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-15 and 17-21 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled. New claim 21 has been added.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

**35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ofek et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,134) in view of Dalal et al (U.S. Patent No. 7,162,575). These rejections are traversed as follows.

According to the present invention, access control information is set such that access to a first storage system is permitted from a target port of a second storage system by one host computer, while preventing such access from another host computer. The claims have been amended to clarify this point.

On the other hand, Ofek et al merely disclose a configuration in which two storage devices have the same access restriction information with respect to a plurality of computers. As such, Ofek et al cannot provide selective access as in the present invention.


The deficiencies in Ofek et al are not overcome by resort to Dalal et al. Dalal et al are concerned with performing high speed data access, as noted by the Examiner. However, in the present invention, it is possible to utilize the original access restriction information for a given host computer in order to access a volume in a first storage device even when the volume is accessed via a port of a second storage device. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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